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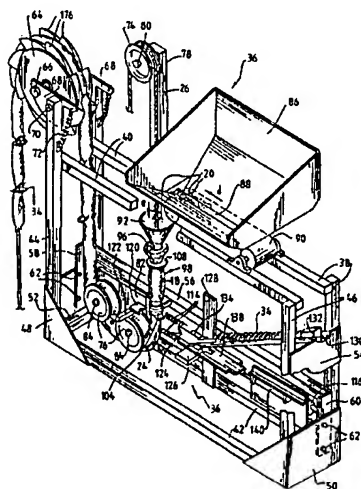
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- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: KVIETELAITIS, Peter [AU/AU]; 9 Boodera Court, Clifton Springs, Victoria 3222 (AU).
- (74) Agents: WALKER, Scott, Andrew et al.; Callinan Lawrie Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys, 711 High Street, Kew, Victoria 3101 (AU).
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SOCKING SEED MOLLUSCS AND/OR FOR APPLYING SUPPORT DEVICES TO MOLLUSC GROWING LINES



(57) Abstract: The invention I is an apparatus (36) for socking molluscs (20) to produce at least one elongate mollusc growing line (24), including: (a) means (98) for supplying at least one elongate sock (18) for injection with molluscs (20); (b) means (86, 88, 90, 92) for injecting the molluscs (20) into the sock (18); (c) means (64) for driving the sock (18) through the apparatus (36). The invention II is an apparatus for attaching at least one support device (34) to at least one elongate mollusc growing line (24), including: (a) means (130, 132) for providing at least one support device (34) for attachment to the growing line (24); (b) means (120, 124) for releasably holding the growing line (24) at a predefined location; (c) means (124, 138) for applying the support device (34) to the growing line (24) while the growing line (24) is held at the predefined location. The invention III is an apparatus (36) for providing at least one elongate growing line (24), including: (a) means (98) for supplying at least one elongate sock (18) for injection with molluscs (20); (b) means (86, 88, 90, 92) for injecting the molluscs (20) into the sock (18); (c) means (64) for driving the sock (18) through the apparatus (36); (d) means (130, 132) for providing at least one support device (34) for attachment to the growing line (24); (e) means (120, 124) for releasably holding the growing line (24) at a predefined location; (f) means (124, 138) for applying the support device (34) to the growing line (24) while the growing line (24) is held at the predefined location.

WO 2005/079565 A1



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